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Convention on the Rights of the Child

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Committee on the Rights of the Child
Seventy-first session
11–29 January 2016
Item 4 of the provisional agenda
Consideration of reports of States parties

List of issues in relation to the combined third to fifth periodic reports of Latvia

The State party is requested to submit in writing additional, updated information (10,700 words maximum), if possible before 15 October 2015.

The Committee may take up any aspects of the children's rights set out in the Convention during the dialogue with the State party.

Part I

In this section, the State party is requested to submit its responses to the following questions.

1. Please inform the Committee whether the national courts have invoked the rights contained in the Convention, either as a ground for a case or as interpretative guidance for legal norms.

2. Please provide information on the results of the implementation of the National Development Plan 2007–2013, in particular in relation to the medium-term national priorities as mentioned in paragraph 40 of the State party's report (CRC/C/LVA/3-5). Please also clarify whether the State party has a new comprehensive policy and strategy for children and, if so, please provide information on its contents, implementation budget and monitoring and evaluation process.

3. Please provide more information on how the effective coordination of the implementation and evaluation of activities under the Convention across all sectors and from national to district levels is ensured between the Ministry of Welfare, the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Education and Science. Please also provide information on efforts undertaken to ensure that the coordinating mechanism is provided with full authority, clarity of mandates and roles at all levels, as well as the necessary resources for it to be effective.

4. Please provide detailed information on the State party's budgeting process, specifically budget allocation for children in relevant sectors, in particular the health,

education and family support sectors, and ministries, and whether indicators and tools for tracking and monitoring are incorporated in the budgeting process.

5. Please provide information on the impact of the financial crisis on children and their families living in poverty, and the measures taken to redress and mitigate the effects of the financial crisis on child poverty, especially for families at risk or in situations of vulnerability. Please also inform the Committee about measures taken to address the situation of children left behind by parents seeking employment outside the country.

6. Please indicate whether any special measures have been taken to eliminate corruption, which affects the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

7. Please indicate the steps taken to combat stereotypes and discrimination against girls, children belonging to minority groups, children with disabilities, children living with HIV/AIDS and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex children. Please also provide information on measures taken to ensure that children from rural areas have adequate access to health care and education. In addition, please provide information on the measures taken to monitor the presence and activities of the right-wing extremist and skinhead groups in the State party, as well as to address this problem through educational activities and awareness-raising.

8. Please provide further information on how the right of the child to have his or her best interests taken as a primary consideration is applied by the judiciary and administrative authorities in practice, including whether any guidelines exist in that regard for all professionals who take decisions relevant to children.

9. In the light of the decision of the Human Rights Committee in the case of *Raihman v. Latvia* (communication No. 1621/2007) in 2010, please provide information on the measures taken to ensure the right to identity of children.

10. In the light of the information provided in paragraph 285 of the State party's report, please provide further and updated information on the measures taken to prevent corporal punishment in all settings and to promote positive, non-violent and participatory forms of childrearing and discipline. Please inform the Committee of specific measures taken to prevent and eradicate bullying. Please also provide information on the financial resources allocated to combat all forms of violence against children.

11. Please provide more information on the measures adopted to provide appropriate support services for families, in particular families at risk or in vulnerable situations, with a view to avoiding the removal of children from their family environment. Please also provide detailed information on the measures taken to increase the number of foster families, to provide them with adequate support and to promote deinstitutionalization.

12. In the light of the information provided in paragraphs 350 and 353 of the State party's report, please update the Committee on the concrete measures taken to fully address inadequate living conditions and violations of children's rights in medical treatment institutions and psychiatric hospitals where children are placed. Please also clarify whether those children have access to independent legal or other appropriate assistance.

13. Please provide more information on the measures taken to implement the Committee's previous recommendations relating to children with disabilities (CRC/C/LVA/CO/2, paras. 40 and 41), in particular concerning awareness-raising with a view to changing negative societal attitudes, eliminating barriers to accessing public buildings and leisure services, and ensuring effective and high-quality inclusive education.

14. Please provide information on the measures taken to ensure that health care is free, without hidden costs, including efforts taken to abolish the quota system for doctors, and to improve the quality of health services. Please also provide detailed information on the

measures taken to combat child mortality and indicate whether adolescents have access to reproductive health services, including access to contraception and safe abortion.

15. Please provide further information on the measures taken to prevent suicide and accidents of children, in particular drowning and traffic accidents.

16. Please provide information on the measures taken to improve the quality of education and indicate whether human rights education is part of the school curricula. Please also inform the Committee on any results achieved in the follow-up to the Ombudsman's report on the right to acquire education free of charge. In addition, please inform the Committee of steps taken to reduce school dropout and repetition rates.

17. Please provide updated information on measures taken to prevent and reduce juvenile delinquency, including alcohol- and drug-related delinquency, and to improve the living conditions of children in detention. Please also inform the Committee of practical steps taken to address incidents of ill-treatment of children in detention centres. Further, please clarify whether children, in detention, including pretrial detention, have access to free legal or other appropriate assistance and independent, effective and child-friendly complaints mechanisms. In addition, please provide further information on the use and objective of social correctional establishments.

18. Please provide information on the measures taken to strengthen the integration of children belonging to minority groups, migrant children and asylum-seeking and refugee children. Please also inform the Committee regarding the plans to change the current system of bilingual education for minorities.

Part II

In this section the Committee invites the State party to provide a brief update (no more than three pages) on the information presented in its report regarding:

(a) New bills and laws, and their respective regulations;

(b) New institutions and their mandates, and institutional reforms;

(c) Recently introduced policies, programmes and action plans, and their scope and financing;

(d) Recent ratifications of human rights instruments.

Part III

Data, statistics and other information, if available

1. Please provide consolidated budget information for the past three years on budget lines regarding children and social sectors, indicating the percentage of each budget line in terms of the total national budget, gross national product and geographical allocation.

2. Please provide, if available, updated statistical data disaggregated by age, sex, disability, socioeconomic status, ethnic origin, rural or urban place of residence and geographical location, covering the past three years, on the number of children:

(a) Who have suffered abuse and/or violence, including all forms of corporal punishment, specifying the type of assistance provided to them, the compensation received and any follow-up, including the prosecution and punishment of the perpetrators. Wherever possible, please provide data on the perpetrators, specifying whether they were law

enforcement officers, relatives, heads of institutions (hospitals, secondary schools and shelters) or others;

(b) Who have suffered sexual violence, specifying the outcome of related prosecutions, including the penalties imposed on the perpetrators and the reparation and compensation awarded to the victims. Wherever possible, please provide data on the perpetrators (using the categories referred to in subparagraph (a) above).

3. Please provide, if available, updated statistical data disaggregated by age, sex, disability, socioeconomic status, ethnic origin, rural or urban place of residence and geographical location, covering the past three years, on:

(a) Infant mortality (disaggregated by cause of death);

(b) Maternal mortality (disaggregated by cause of death), including information on the number of lawsuits for medical negligence that have been filed;

(c) Children and adolescents infected with or affected by HIV/AIDS (specifying cases of mother-to-child transmission);

(d) Child and adolescent pregnancies;

(e) Mental illnesses in children.

4. Please provide data disaggregated by age, sex, socioeconomic background, ethnic origin and geographical location regarding the situation of children deprived of a family environment, covering the past three years, on the number of children:

(a) Separated from their parents;

(b) Placed in institutions;

(c) Placed with foster families;

(d) Adopted domestically or through inter-country adoptions.

5. Please provide data, disaggregated by age, sex, type of disability, ethnic origin and geographical location, covering the past three years, on the number of children with disabilities:

(a) Living with their families;

(b) In institutions;

(c) Attending regular primary schools;

(d) Attending regular secondary schools;

(e) Attending special schools;

(f) Out of school;

(g) Abandoned by their families.

6. Please provide, if available, updated data disaggregated by, inter alia, age, sex, socioeconomic background, geographical location and ethnic origin, covering the past three years, on:

(a) The enrolment and completion rates, in percentages, of the relevant age groups in pre-primary schools, in primary schools and in secondary schools;

(b) The number and percentage of dropouts and repetitions;

(c) The teacher-pupil ratio.

7. Please provide data disaggregated by age, sex, disability, socioeconomic status, ethnic origin, rural or urban place of residence and geographical location, covering the past three years, on the number of children and adolescents who are living in street situations.

8. Please provide, if available, updated data disaggregated by age, sex, disability, ethnic origin, rural or urban place of residence, geographical location and type of offence, for the past three years, on the number of:

(a) Children and adolescents alleged to have committed an offence that was reported to the police;

(b) Adolescents who have been convicted (specifying the type of penalty or punishment corresponding to the offence, including the duration of any deprivation of liberty);

(c) Detention centres for minors in conflict with the law and their capacity;

(d) Children and adolescents held in such facilities and those held in adult facilities;

(e) Children and adolescents in pretrial detention and the average length of such detention;

(f) Cases of abuse and ill-treatment of children or adolescents occurring during arrest and detention.

9. Please provide the Committee with an update of any data in the report which may have been superseded by more recent data collected, or affected by new developments.

10. In addition, the State party may list areas affecting children that it considers to be of priority with regard to the implementation of the Convention.